

Cougars drop to Linn Benton, Willamette

By Brad Boyer
Staff Writer

The Clackamas Community College men's basketball team suffered two heartbreaking defeats this past week. On Saturday, the Cougars dropped a home game to Linn-Benton 85 to 84, and this past Monday they dropped a non-league game to the Willamette J.V.'s 110 to 105 in overtime down in Salem.

The Cougar basketball team failed in an effort to pick up ground in their quest for a playoff spot as an outside jump shot with only seconds remaining in the game iced a crucial league game for Linn-Benton.

Clackamas played well in the first half and built an eight point lead, 47 to 39 at intermission. The Cougars stagnated in the second period and suffered their sixth league loss in 10 outings.

"We had a let down in the second half and you can't do that against a team like Linn-Benton," Clackamas Coach Len Tirrill said. "They will take advantage of your mistakes and beat you."

Despite a strong shooting performance by Linn-Benton in the second half (22 for 35), Clackamas still managed to gain slight leads late in the ball game. Charles Sampson's rebound basket with 45 seconds remaining put Clackamas up 84 to 83. The Cougars had a chance to put the game away after Linn-Benton missed a shot but costly turnovers enabled Linn-Benton to fire in the game winning basket.

"Our defense and poor shot selection really hurt us in the last part of the game," Tirrill said.

Sampson led all scorers with 23 points and he also collected 14 rebounds. Sampson's fine performance against Linn-Benton, coupled with a 27 point, 18 rebound game against Blue Mountain earlier in the week, gained him the league's "outstanding player of the week" award.

Grant McCulloch, a 6'4" freshman out of



CCC cager Dan Bauer looks for a pass to the inside in recent basketball action against Linn-Benton Community College. Linn-Benton won last Saturday 85-84.

Tigard High School, turned in an effort against Linn-Benton. McCulloch led in 23 points and grabbed 9 rebounds.

"McCulloch really did a superb job," Tirrill said. "Any time you shoot 12 from the field, you sure can't count on it."

In Monday night's game against Willamette J.V.'s Tirrill played Clackamas' second team for the entire first half and 10 minutes of the second half and picked up a big win before bowing out of time.

Tirrill said that he wanted to give one some playing time and he was disappointed with the performance of his second team.

John VanAcker led Clackamas with 18 points and McCulloch had a fine shooting night as he went eight for 12 from the field for a total of 16 points.

Dan Bauer hit a 20 foot jump shot with six seconds remaining in regulation to tie the game into overtime. Clackamas scored two quick baskets in the overtime period but never really got into it.

Tirrill said that again lack of defense and poor shot selection hurt.

"We have to learn to play with intensity for 40 minutes because everyone in the league is tough and if you don't play hard you will not win," Tirrill said.

Against Willamette, Clackamas scored nine more field goals than did their opponents, but a vast difference in free throw attempts cost the Cougars the game.

"I don't like to ever say we got hurt but when the other team shoots 4 for 5 free throws to our 14, something has gone wrong," Tirrill said.

Clackamas is now in a tie with Linn-Benton for fifth place. The top team in the league will automatically advance to the regional playoffs. The next four teams then play off for the other qualifying spots for the regional tournament.

calendar

thursday

"Wonderlove" starring Stevie Wonder. CC Mall, Barlow and Clairmont Lounges. 9 a.m., 2 p.m., 6 p.m., and 8 p.m. Free.

ASG meeting. Fireside Lounge. 11 a.m.

Open Doors for Women lecture by Bernice Evans. Focus on Women. CC-117. 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. \$1.

"Spoon River Anthology." CCRT performance. McLoughlin Theatre. 8:30 p.m.

"The Savage Eye." 8 p.m. Portland Art Museum, S.W. Park and Madison, Portland.

"I'll Die if I Can't Live Forever." Portland Civic Theatre Blue Room. \$4 adults, \$3 students/senior citizens. Also Friday and Saturday.

friday

"Schizoid Plus." Open Mike. Fireside Lounge. Noon. Free.

"Wonderlove" starring Stevie Wonder. CC Mall, Barlow and Clairmont Lounges. 8 a.m., 1 p.m., 6 p.m., and 8 p.m.

"Spoon River Anthology." CCRT performance. McLoughlin Theatre. 8:30 p.m.

Paul Taylor Dance Company. Civic Auditorium. \$7, \$6 and \$5. Also Saturday.

weekend

"Spoon River Anthology." CCRT performance. McLoughlin Theatre. 8:30 p.m. Saturday.

monday

"Hill 24 Doesn't Answer." Monte Flick. Fireside Lounge. 11:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Art Exhibit. CCC Mall.

tuesday

Mini Concert. CCC Music Department. CC Mall. Noon. Free.

wednesday

Steve Cooper. Coffeehouse. Fireside Lounge. Noon. Free.

Les Grands Ballets Canadiens. Civic Auditorium. 8:15 p.m. Also Thursday.

